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Congresswoman Matsui, Partners to Host Congressional Gold Medal Ceremony

Special Recognition Ceremony for Surviving Japanese-American World War II Veterans of the 442nd, 100th and MIS Unable to Attend DC Ceremony

SACRAMENTO, CA – On Saturday, May 26, 2012, Congresswoman Doris Matsui (D-Sacramento) and various community partners will host a Congressional Gold Medal Ceremony honoring surviving Japanese-American veterans who served in the 442nd Regimental Combat Team (RCT), 100th Infantry Battalion (IB), and Military Intelligence Service (MIS) during World War II, which was collectively awarded the Congressional Gold Medal in late 2011.

After the attacks on Pearl Harbor, more than 110,000 Japanese Americans were forced into internment camps. In spite of this, many Japanese-American men volunteered to defend their country and joined the 442nd RCT, 100th IB and MIS, fighting in Italy, France and the Pacific.

“It is due time that these members of the 442nd RCT, 100th IB and MIS, who risked their lives for our nation in World War II, each be recognized and honored,” said Congresswoman Matsui. “In the face of prejudice and unjust incarceration, these men dedicated themselves to the country that had turned its back on them. Their strength and resolve are to be admired by all.”

During the Sacramento event, surviving veterans of these units who were unable to make it to the official event in Washington, D.C. this past November will be presented with an official replica of the medal. Hosted in partnership with the Sacramento Japanese-American Citizens League, and the Asian Community Center of Sacramento, the event will take place at the California Museum in the Secretary of State’s Courtyard. Doors will open at 10:00 AM, and the program will begin at 11:00 AM. Light refreshments will be served.

Eligible veterans who wish to be presented with a replica gold medal are encouraged to RSVP at <http://sacramentocgm.eventbrite.com>

On November 2, 2011, Congressional leaders awarded the Congressional Gold Medals to 832 surviving members of the 442nd, 100th, and MIS, during the official ceremony in Washington, D.C. Congresswoman Matsui was an original co-sponsor of H.R. 347, legislation that granted the Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the Military Intelligence Service, 100th Infantry Battalion and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team.

“Because of their age and travel constraints, some members of the 442nd RCT, 100th IB and MIS, were not able to make it back to Washington last November. This ceremony is in special recognition to those veterans that were unable to attend, and brings us together to honor their service,” said Congresswoman Matsui.

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